



The Commission Connection

Tips, recommendations, and information for notaries,
from the Idaho Secretary of State

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State agents...

*“By swearing an
oath and accepting
a commission,
notaries are
empowered by the
state to act as
impartial agents.”*

Notaries are Public Servants



Involvement in public service comes in many different forms, by a variety of people, at all levels of government. Some participate in public service with a desire to assist their communities and fellow citizens. Others see a problem or a need and wish to be a part of the solution. There are those also whose jobs require them to embrace public service. These reasons hold true throughout the many facets of government involvement. From being an elected official who enacts laws, to being a public employee at a state agency, to being appointed as a notary public, all are important roles in public service.

By swearing an oath, and accepting a commission, notaries are empowered by the state to act as impartial agents. As such, notaries public are public officials who exercise ministerial authority on behalf of their jurisdictions. For this reason, every notarial act is an act of government.

Notaries fill an important role in government, fulfilling the need for authentication of signatures and documents, in an effort to prevent fraud. As a notary, one must appreciate and respect this indispensable role, and work to maintain the integrity of the appointment by remaining a trusted and impartial public official.

Public officials and their agencies are often required to be ministerial in their duties. Notaries are no different. As a ministerial agent of the state the notary performs his or her duties, as defined by the Idaho Code, without judgment or discretion. Notaries must perform notarial acts exactly as they are laid out in the statutes.

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*“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
~ Mohandas Gandhi*



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Public Service...

*Notaries are agents
of the state.*

*Obey the sworn
oath, the
Constitution, and
the laws.*

*Remain impartial
and unbiased.*

*First line of defense
against fraud.*

Notaries are Public Servants (cont.)

In summary:

1. Notaries are appointed agents of the state who perform acts of government.
2. A notary must obey his or her oath and obey the laws that govern this ministerial appointment.
3. It is imperative that notaries remain impartial and unbiased, avoiding potential discrimination.
4. As the first line of defense against fraud, notaries play an important and indispensable role in the legal system, business, and commerce.



- Do you have any interesting notary stories or anecdotes?
- Do you have any questions that you and other notaries would like answers to?
- Are there any legal issues with notarization that you would like to make others aware of?
- Do you have any tips on making the notarization process easier?

If so we would like to include them in this newsletter. Please send anything you have to Debbie Farnsworth at dfarnsworth@sos.idaho.gov.

